

Next steps for the Newcastle Learning and Action alliance

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Newcastle City Council



2009-2010
Preventing and tackling child poverty

Structure of session

- What are LAAs?
- Role within the wider BlueGreenCities project
- The Newcastle experience
 - Group formation
 - Vision and objectives
 - Activities undertaken
- Challenges and lessons learnt

What is a Learning and Action Alliance?

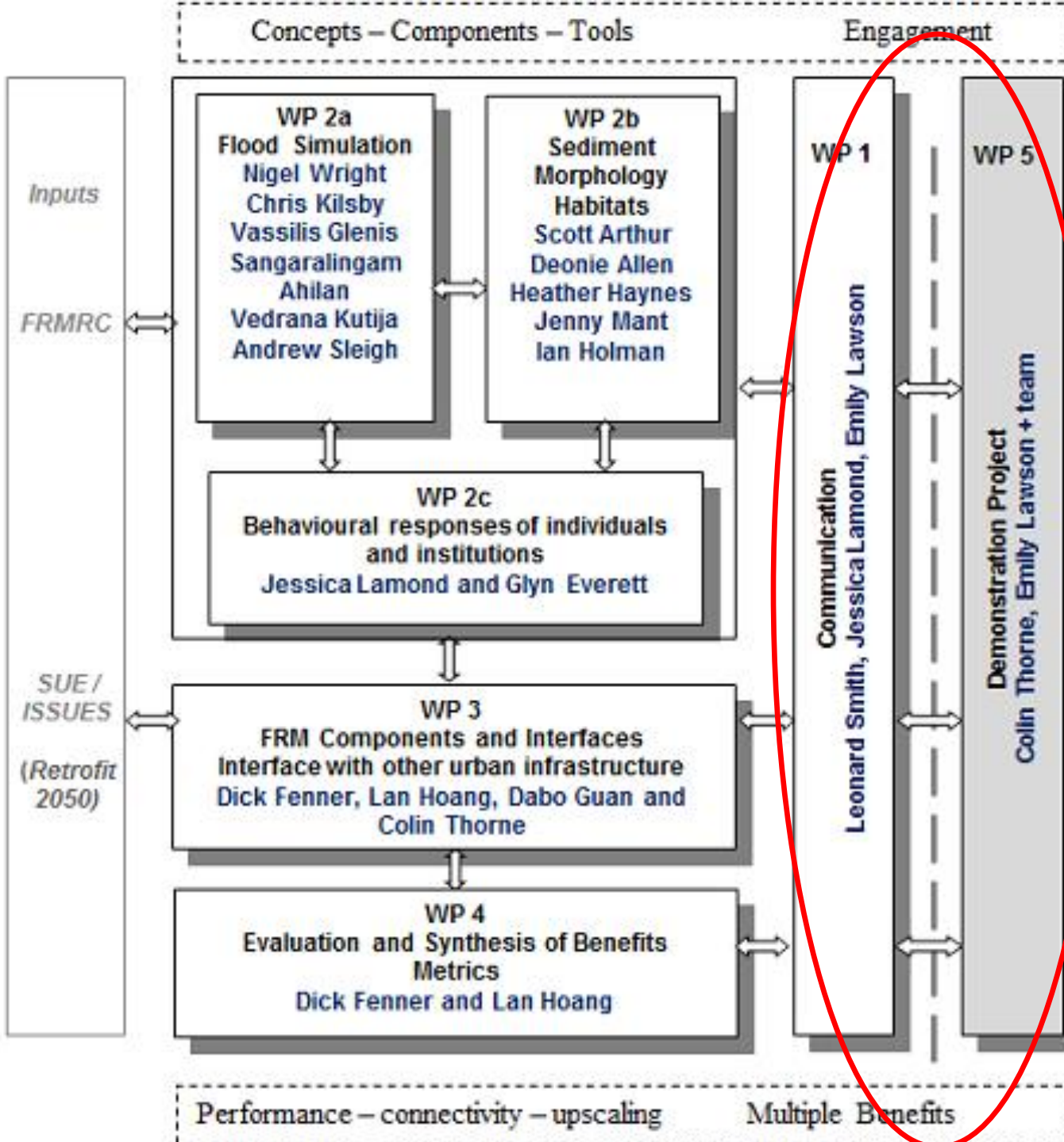
- A cooperative, horizontal forum where people can bring expertise, but talk freely outside of any organisational constraints in an atmosphere of mutual trust and ownership.
- Dynamic groupings that can grow organically, being open to all who have an interest, but within it specific sub-groupings to focus on particular interests and problems are encouraged.
- A platform to facilitate open knowledge-sharing and discussions, encouraging the development of a clearer vision and enabling progress towards that end.
- This may involve participants willing to take risks and discuss options previously outside the constraints of existing formal institutional settings.
- Solutions or ideas are afterwards presented in formal inter-organisational decision-making processes.
- Used successfully in Sheffield, Bergen, Hamburg, Hannover and Taiwan to support FRM strategies

Why?

- Lack of trust
- Lack of knowledge
- Jargon
- Too Busy
- Somebody else's problem?
- Silo thinking
- Fragmentation of knowledge

Stages in the life of the LAA

- *Establishment* – core group of investigators driven by a shared vision
- *Functioning* – delivering on the vision (reference, legitimacy, mutual respect and trust), challenging regulations and developing novel ideas
- *Sustainability* – maintaining interest, specific project focus, continual emphasis of the benefits of participation and addition of new benefits over time



Role within the BlueGreenCities project

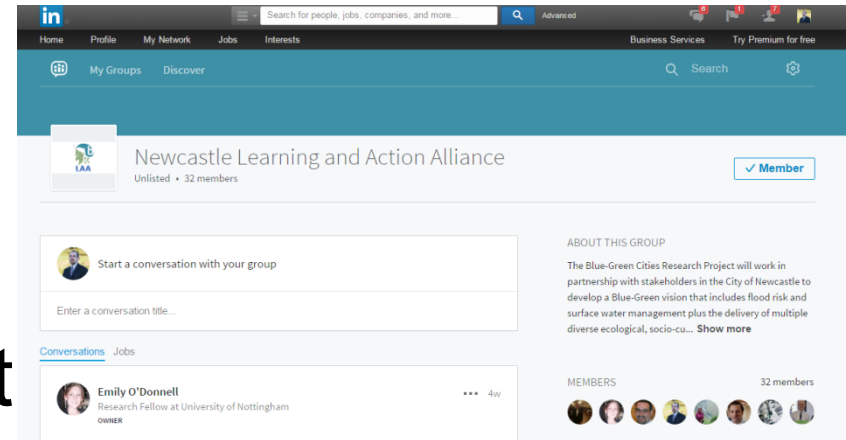
- Main project selected Newcastle as demonstration City (WP5)
- Main vehicle to enable local communications into the project (WP1)
- Sought to maximise local engagement with researchers, but also each other

The Newcastle experience

- A number of regular meetings, which aimed to increase shared understanding through:
 - Developing a shared a vision and strategic objectives
 - Stakeholder Mapping
 - Mapped known/existing projects
 - Reviewed ongoing projects (e.g. City Centre North Transport)
 - Sharing knowledge, skills and experience (e.g. financing blue and green infrastructure, implementing SuDS)
 - Provided steer and input into main work packages of project – leveraged local knowledge
- Established through local networks and informal drinks

Model adopted

- Set out different levels of involvement
- Allowed flexibility for different stakeholders to participate as they felt appropriate



Vision and strategic objectives

- “The Vision is for Newcastle to become a city that follows the principles of a Blue-Green City by maximising the opportunities to achieve multiple benefits of Blue-Green approaches to surface water management.”

Strategic Objectives

- To develop novel ideas and Blue-Green strategies for Newcastle, and promote these to create opportunities for uptake of Blue-Green approaches in Newcastle.
- To explore ways in which institutional barriers can be overcome and seek to promote the “best” options that incorporate Blue-Green development.
- To identify and communicate with important influencers, stakeholders and communities about the benefits of the Blue-Green approach.
- To challenge traditional approaches and indicate how new benefits will be generated and how these can promote partnerships in Newcastle.

Strategic objectives (cont'd)

- **To promote the broad vision through identifying specific challenges and locations of interest in the Newcastle region that may be improved by Blue-Green approaches.**
- **To develop location-specific Blue-Green strategies that may inform the plans enacted by the organisations represented by LAA members and beyond.**
- **The strategies will include input from multiple organisations with diverse drivers for supporting the approaches, resulting in a negotiated approach that can create multiple benefits.**
- **The LAA will communicate these strategies to other stakeholders including the Blue-Green Cities Research Consortium in order to influence stakeholder actions and research directions.**

Newcastle_BGI_FusionTable

Imported at Thu Jun 19 00:36:21 PDT 2014 from Newcastle_BGI_FusionTable.csv. Version 1 (EL)
Newcastle LAA BGI and SuDS mapping - Edited on October 16, 2014

File Edit Tools Help

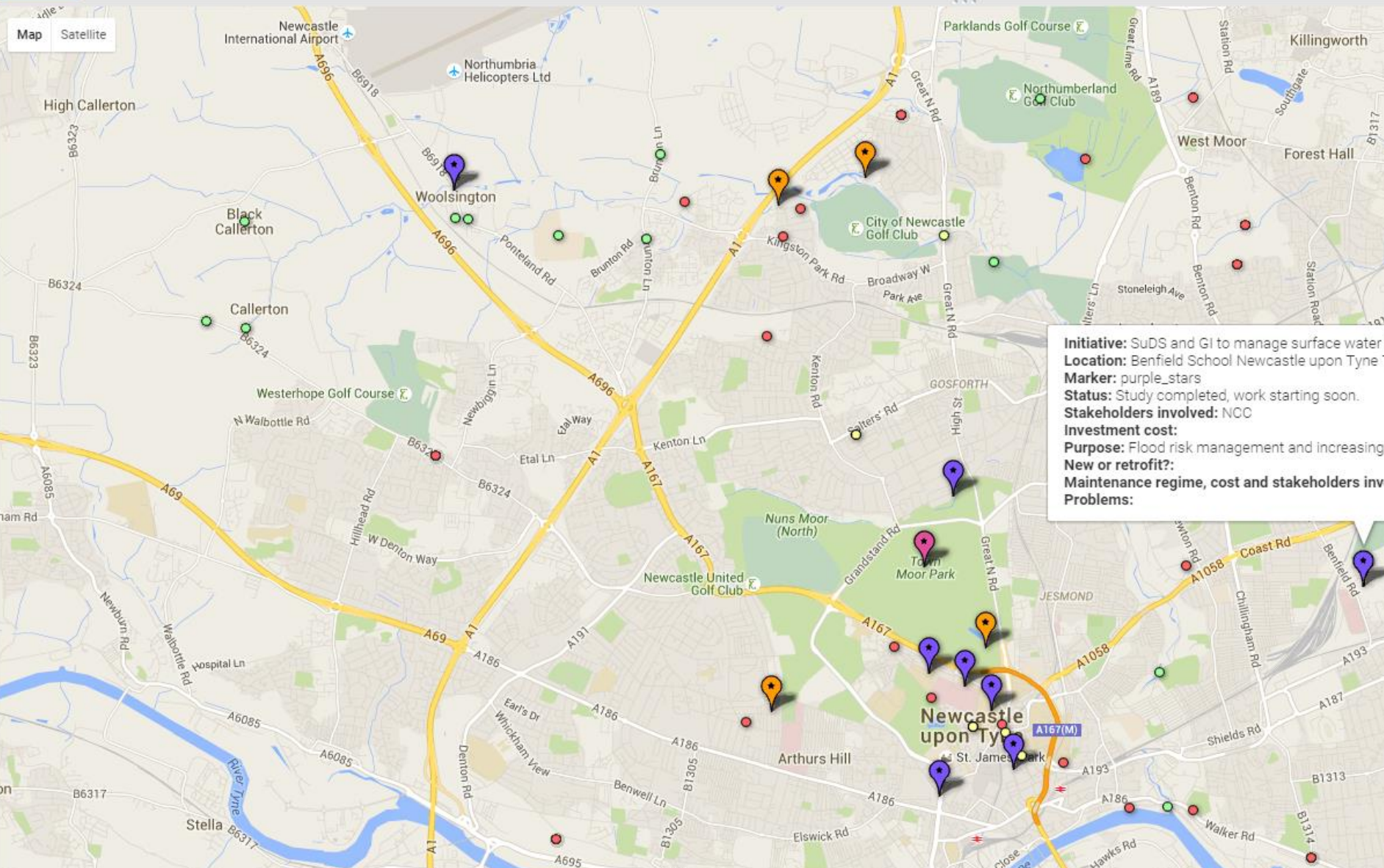
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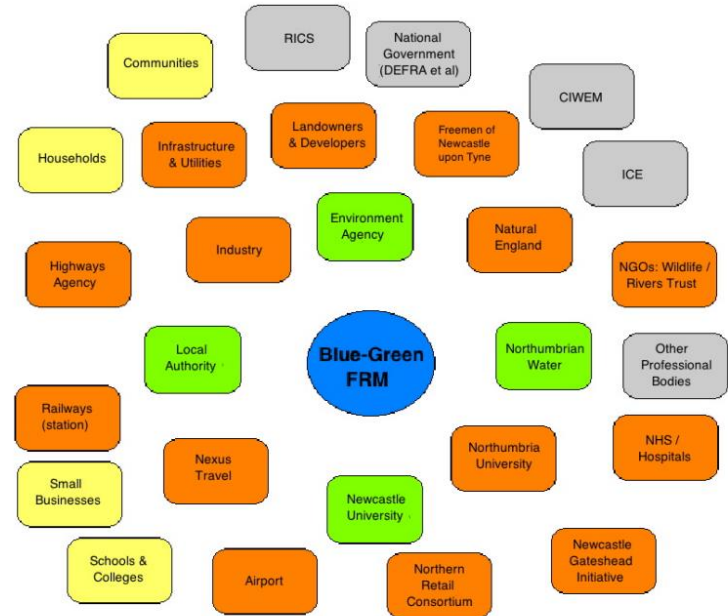
Map Satellite



Initiative: SuDS and GI to manage surface water flow
Location: Benfield School Newcastle upon Tyne
Marker: purple_stars
Status: Study completed, work starting soon.
Stakeholders involved: NCC
Investment cost:
Purpose: Flood risk management and increasing urban green space
New or retrofit?:
Maintenance regime, cost and stakeholders involved:
Problems:

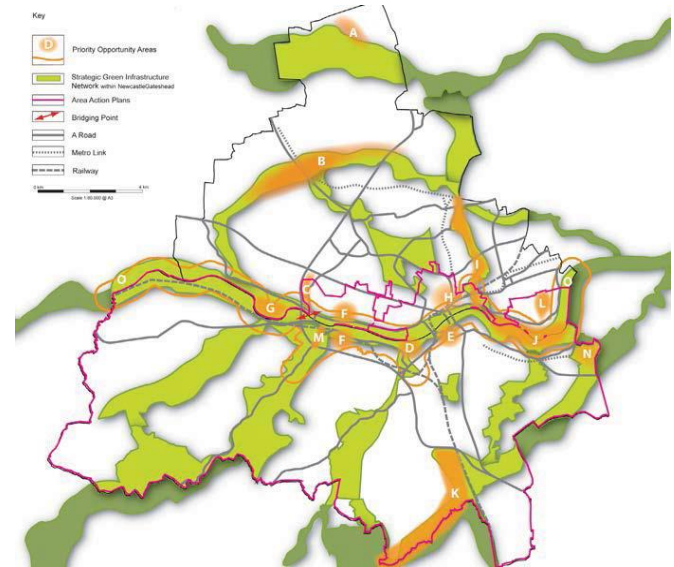
Stakeholder Mapping

- Identified stakeholders that were not at the start-up workshop but that play a key role in Newcastle FRM and the creation of a Blue-Green vision, and so should be represented
- Discussed relationships between key stakeholders and developed a draft stakeholder map, to show the different levels of influence and responsibility regarding implementation of Blue-Green infrastructure.



Sharing aspirations

- Freeman of the City
- Newcastle City Council
 - Flood Risk
 - Climate Change
 - Transport
- NWL
- Newcastle University



Pilot study on Tyneside



- Multi agency
- Sustainable 'joined up' solutions
 - Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
 - Rain gardens
 - Removing surface water
 - Sustainable growth
- Outputs identified real opportunities
 - Monkton Village
 - Killingworth & Longbenton
 - SW separation in Newcastle City
- Template for future partnership working
- Independent review
- Industry leading approach



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Personal perspective

- Can be a leap of faith – so much focus on delivery and known priorities
- Challenges perceptions, views and opinions
- Initial effort needed to overcome inertia
- Number of potentially interested people!

Next steps

- Continued meeting of group
- Inviting others to attend and explore ideas – e.g. NE1 Business Improvement District, Health?
- Move into delivery?
- Seek new collaborations to change approaches:
 - £K Innovate project – ‘cities integrated by design’



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